

THE PROJECTED REBEL INVASION.

Semi-Official Statement of Their Designs.

An Expedition Sent from Wilmington to Halifax.

36 OFFICERS AND 300 MEN ENGAGED.

2,000 Rebel Officers to have been Released.

Johnson's Island to have been Taken as a Base of Operations.

Federal Commerce on the Lakes to be Destroyed.

The Lake Ports Laid Under Contribution, and the Country Devastated.

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN THE LAKE COUNTRY.

Prompt Precautionary Measures Adopted.

From The Montreal Commercial Advertiser.

THE JOHNSON'S ISLAND EXPEDITION.

The expedition intended to effect the liberation of the Confederate officers held prisoners on Johnson's Island, Lake Erie, having failed, in order to remove the misapprehensions that may be created by Federal accounts of a Canadian plot to burn Western cities, we give below all the facts in which the public is interested, which may be assured be implicitly relied on.

The Washington Government having refused to continue the exchange of prisoners of war under the cartel, sent the Southern officers accustomed to a tropical climate to Johnson's Island, where 2,000 of them were confined in wretched quarters, absolutely unfit to house cattle. There is no reason to doubt that the officers selected for this prison were those upon whom the cold, damp climate, and exposure would act most prejudicially. It was in fact an attempt to commit murder, without publicly incurring the odium of slaughter.

In these circumstances the Confederate Government determined to make an attempt to rescue the doomed officers, and for this purpose an expedition was fitted out consisting of thirty-six officers under the command of one who had distinguished himself in similar dashing enterprises, and three hundred men. The officers embarked at Wilmington in the Confederate steamer R. E. Lee, and landed at Halifax. The cotton and tobacco brought by that steamer as freight were sold to furnish the funds required, amounting to \$110,000. The men came overland through the States in small parties to certain rendezvous.

The intention was to surprise the Federal garrison on Johnson's Island, liberate the prisoners, convey them to Canada in vessels provided for that purpose, and forward them by Halifax to Nassau or Bermuda; the greater part of the funds being specially devoted to paying their passage to one of these points.

Any further operations on the Lakes were left to the discretion of the officers in command, whose orders were stringent and preliminary to avoid a breach of British neutrality, and to take care that even the semblance of international wrong should be prevented. Had Johnson's Island been taken, it might have formed a basis for other operations against Federal commerce on the Lakes, but the real object of the expedition was to rescue two thousand valuable lives from the cruelty which had devoted them to slow but certain death in a climate and situation in the last degree inimical to them.

STARTLING REVELATIONS!

From The Detroit Free Press, 13th.

We have received information which appears authentic, but which seems scarcely credible of a daring, desperate and dangerous Rebel scheme, which has just been discovered by the Government, and which, for its audacity and the state of forwardness to which it is said to have attained, may well cause the utmost apprehension and alarm in Detroit and throughout Michigan. The scheme is said to be a very bold and successful, it will be in consequence of the vigilance of the officers of the Government, assisted by the detectives when they have employed in ferreting out and exposing the scheme, and the prompt action of the military, that the scheme has been discovered, and the organization of a Rebel army to take the field in Michigan, and to march on Detroit, has been exposed.

It is estimated that there are in the neighboring provinces of Canada not less than 100,000 able-bodied men, refugees from the Federal States, and deserters from the United States, who are well drilled and may in a short time be organized into an army of thoroughly disciplined soldiers. It is known that they are already equipped with arms, and it is calculated that as the scheme is said to be a very bold and successful, it will be in consequence of the vigilance of the officers of the Government, assisted by the detectives when they have employed in ferreting out and exposing the scheme, and the prompt action of the military, that the scheme has been discovered, and the organization of a Rebel army to take the field in Michigan, and to march on Detroit, has been exposed.

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From The New York Tribune.

Vol. XXIII.....No. 7,057. NEW-YORK, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1863. PRICE THREE CENTS.

LATER FROM CHARLESTON.

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The Capture of Charleston Problematical.

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James Island—The Navy—The New Ironsides—Leaves of Absence—Winter Quarters—Presentation to Lieut.-Col. McConihe—Brig.-Gen. Foster.

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FOLLY ISLAND, S. C., Nov. 12, 1863.

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FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

FIRING HEARD TOWARD STEVENSBERG.

Supposed Engagement with a Rebel Reconnoitering Force.

ALL QUIET ELSEWHERE IN THE ARMY.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15, 1863.

The train which reached here at 10 o'clock to-night from the Army of the Potomac brought information of some cannoning in the vicinity of Stevensburg this morning, commencing at 8 o'clock and